

# Pearl White Wins the Duke Who Lost His Wife by Jazz

**The Fearless Heroine of the Movies Dares in Real Life to Make One of the Wealthiest, Proudest of French Dukes Her Willing Slave—and Fills Many of His Countrywomen with Jealous Rage at Losing This Rich Love Prize**

The Duke of Vallombrosa and the bride he lost through her fondness for jazz.



IS PEARL WHITE now playing in real life a role that calls for more thrills than any of the many exciting parts she has had in the motion pictures?

Is she who was long ago crowned queen of the movie thrillers about to exchange that title for a ducal coronet of one of the oldest, proudest and richest families in France?

When she returns to America will it be as her highness, the Duchess of Vallombrosa?

That still depends. The agile and fearless blond actress may be said already to have appeared in several of the opening episodes of the novel romance which observers believe to be under way. And that has been enough for them to acclaim what they have seen as giving promise of being the greatest achievement in her career.

The heart interest, they say, already has been strongly developed. The "flash backs" to the past lives of leading characters have been most effective and have whetted the expectation for the exciting adventures that bid fair to occur in the future. But the greatest element in the success of the affair, they say, is the identity of Miss White's present "leading man," who is none other than the young French Duke, Paul de Vallombrosa.

The duke is as handsome and as fascinating a leading man as any girl could ask. The gossip in Paris has it that so completely has he succumbed to the charms of Miss White, that for her he is not a "leading man" but a led man. And the gossips point to at least one very amusing incident to prove it.

Pearl and the duke were dining at a very fashionable restaurant on Rue Cammartin, in Paris. The restaurant is called "So Different," and is said to live up to its name. However, there was one thing that was not different enough, and Pearl wanted it changed. That was the music.

Perhaps a wave of homesickness swept over the actress; at any rate, something caused her to take it into her head that she must hear a certain American fox trot played by the jazz band. Nothing else would do. When she demanded that it be played, the leader of the orchestra approached, and with profuse apologies regretted that he did not have the music of the selection mademoiselle

desired. But this did not appease Pearl. She wanted what she wanted when she wanted it.

So she turned to the elegant and wealthy duke and ordered, quite as if she were talking to a messenger boy or a thoroughly hen-pecked husband:

"Paul, you go back to the apartment and get it."

The duke looked staggered. People do not often send men of his rank on their little errands. But the adoring nobleman rose and obediently went and did as he was told.

"Mademoiselle White, she has captured the Duke of Vallombrosa," was the comment of the gay Parisians at the restaurant, as they smiled at the celerity with which the duke obeyed the little film star's command.

The scene in the brilliant restaurant, thronged with merrymakers, was one that would have "filmed" very excellently. It would have made one of the most attractive episodes in which Pearl ever has acted. But there was more in the incident than appeared on the surface. A complete picture should show preceding action, which would indicate what a monumental triumph for Pearl that fetching of a piece of jazz music by the duke was.

As has long been well known, it was jazz that wrecked the romance of the duke and the beautiful young wife from whom he was divorced a short time ago.

The duke met the lovely Theresa, daughter of Mme. Bourge de Bozas, in that haunt of romance, the Riviera, and fell in love with her at first sight. That, it appears, is the way the duke usually falls in love. As they sauntered on stately terraces in the moonlight it took him only a short time to bring the talk to personal topics.



The Duke's father at a fashionable costume ball he attended while on a visit to New York

He found out that the girl was engaged to no one else, and then, at once proceeded to get engaged to her himself. Marriage followed quickly, but it lasted only a little longer than the brief engagement. Something came between the young couple, and that something was jazz.

The young Duchess Theresa was caught in the whirl of the Paris dance craze. She took it up with such enthusiasm and became so proficient in all of the art—she was adept with both feet and shoulders—that she won a prize as the most beautiful dancer in the great city. After that, of course, there was no stopping her.

The duke loomed small beside the joys of jazz. When he grew weary of escorting his duchess to balls and

dances, cafes and cabarets, she was able without any difficulty to find other escorts. It is said that she was often with the "gigolos" or professional dancing men, appreciating their grace and the skillful way they managed difficult steps on the polished floors.

Finally the duke grew desperate and entered suit for divorce. And not content with the conventional one or two, he is said to have been prepared to name no less than forty-three co-respondents! In about a year he obtained his divorce—robbed if ever a husband was by jazz.

Knowing the story of this divorce, as she certainly must, is it not amazing that Pearl White should deliberately have touched the duke on a sore spot by sending him off, like an errand boy, to get a piece of jazz music? It only goes to show that the heroine of many movie serials is not afraid of taking as great risks in real life as she does on the screen.

In most of Pearl White's movie dramas there have been villains. Can she escape them in this drama of hers in real life? None has put in his sinister appearance so far, but there is no telling what may happen if she fulfills her friends' expectations by marrying the duke. The duke's fortune, which is large, might easily attract numerous villains, and so might Miss White's. She has said that her exploits in the films net her an income of \$1,000,000 a year.

Besides the duke's first wife and her family, who hardly can be expected to

be friendly toward a new duchess, there may be others to reckon with. Miss White has two ex-husbands to her record. She first married Victor Sutherland, an actor whom she divorced in 1916 after she had testified that her husband had become a "matinee idol" to a pretty, dark-haired young woman. Next she married Major Wallace McCutcheon, a war hero and author. But this marriage also proved a failure and was terminated by the wife obtaining a divorce last year.

Something approaching villainy might also be added to the drama by some of the countless French girls who bitterly regret seeing such a rich matrimonial prize as the Duke of Vallombrosa carried off by a foreigner.

But if any villains should still pursue Miss White, as they always have in the movies, they are pretty sure to find that this hero of hers is not a man to be trifled with. The duke is hardly likely to be daunted, not even by opposition as formidable as that which harassed Pearl in some of her serial movie thrillers.

The Duke of Vallombrosa made a rec-

Pearl White gayly bidding good-bye to America at the start of her trip to Metz. Leaping from the direct rush on several machine nests and silenced them, bringing as prisoners their crews, which numbered his own detachment of one. For this he received the Croix de Guerre.

Miss White just arrived in Paris from London by airplane, and listening to the Duke's courtly words of welcome

ord for gallantry in the war. He received a citation and the Croix de Guerre for an exploit in which he part near Metz. Leaping from the direct rush on several machine nests and silenced them, bringing as prisoners their crews, which numbered his own detachment of one. For this he received the Croix de Guerre.

Then, too, the duke had no less than three deaths. Two of these conflicts is said to have been fought over a pretty girl. The second duel caused the death of a woman. It is said that the duke is quick to the defense of his lady and will stop at nothing to their honor.

Perhaps this is one of the characteristics which has attracted Pearl to the duke. In her adventures, she has been hanging from cliffs, leaping dodging daggers, wrestling villains and finally being rescued in a seemingly hopeless situation. It is then that the hero appears the scene and rescues her from overwhelming odds. Pearl White, as a result of her experiences, thinks it well to be a hero at her side in real life.

The duke gives the impression of great attraction to any woman who attracts his gaze. He was so when Miss White, quite characteristic of her, arrived from London by airplane. Paris by airplane, and a crowd of admirers were at the landing to meet her. The duke of Vallombrosa, handsome and powerful, was one of the distinguished company. After a few minutes of welcome, the duke's fair visitor had made, the duke stopped bearing in one hand a bouquet of roses, which he presented to her. Then, bending over Pearl's outstretched hand, kissing it, the duke made the following courtly speech of greeting:

"Through the others, mademoiselle, France itself has been yours. Through me the hands who know the thrill of the press happiness in your company. In speaking of a possible union between Pearl White and the duke, the gossips mention the social position of the old Savoyard family, which has been prominent in Europe since the year 1200.

Other American women have come into the family, but they have been women of wealth, family and fame. The Marquise de Vallombrosa, mother of the present Duke of Vallombrosa, was Miss Mollie Hoffman, a rich and fashionable society girl.

It is not certain that the duke will be willing to take into the family a fellow country girl, though she is as famous as Pearl White and one as famous as the Duke of Vallombrosa.

However, all Paris is aware of the widely known fact that there is a little Pearl White who does not care who can make the Duke of Vallombrosa who can make the Duke of Vallombrosa whose experiences with jazz have been so very unfortunate, felicitous and a selection of it for her music. She has a strong hold on him and is likely to carry this romance to its end as she pleases.

